

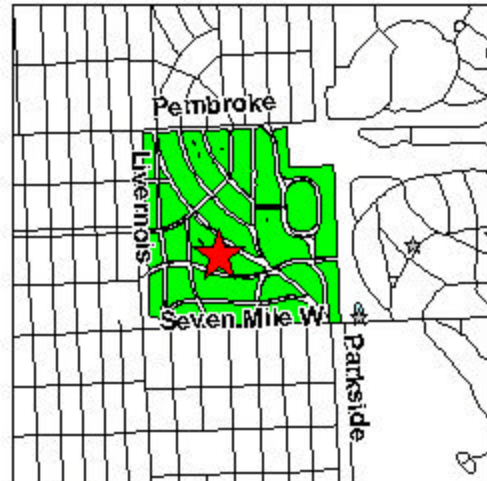
## **Sherwood Forest Historic District**

General boundaries: Seven Mile, Livernois, Pembroke, and Parkside.

Local                    v            5/13/02  
State  
State Marker  
National



19100 block of Berkley streetscape.



### **Historic overview:**

The Sherwood Forest neighborhood is composed of two subdivisions, Sherwood Forest and Sherwood Forest Manor, platted in 1916 and 1926. This area was marketed as an “exclusive residential park”, close to the esteemed Palmer Woods subdivision, Detroit Golf Club, and Palmer Park. The area attracted many of Detroit’s most prominent citizens, including physicians, attorneys, judges and upper level company executives.

As was common with many subdivisions, the residents were to adhere to certain building restrictions and conditions; such as, flat roofs were not allowed, and exteriors were to be of brick, stone or concrete over tile or metal lath. Before the 1948 federal law banning racial discrimination in housing, the Sherwood Forest community also had a stipulation that stated: “No lots in said division shall be sold or leased to or occupied by any other person than of the Caucasian race.” As Neighborhood cultural diversity increased, many distinguished members of the Jewish community chose to reside in Sherwood Forest in the early to mid-1940s. In the late 1960s and 1970s African Americans began moving into Sherwood Forest. Today, the neighborhood is one of the most diverse areas in the city; over 80% of residents are African American.

Soon after WWII, Livernois Avenue in the Sherwood Forest area became known for its upscale retail clothing stores, shoe stores and furniture stores. Street signs identified it as the *Avenue of Fashion*, a name that it still retains today, although the nature of the businesses has changed drastically. Women would wear white gloves and nice dresses to shop in this district. The area was hit hard during the civil unrest of 1967, with the destruction of many of the businesses.

The Sherwood Forest Association was formed in 1929 is still active. Today it is a thriving affluent neighborhood. As a result of thoughtful planning, the subdivision of winding oak lined streets has handsome houses surrounded by expansive landscaped lots.

